

## **TAXPAYERS GET DOUBLE-DUTY FROM E-FILING**

WASHINGTON -- More than 6 million taxpayers have found that if filing one tax return electronically is good, e-filing two is better -- especially when they can send both together. According to the Internal Revenue Service, such federal/state e-filings have increased by 33.5 percent over this time last year.

Thirty-six states allow taxpayers to e-file their federal and state returns in one transmission, either through tax professionals or from their home computers. The IRS receives the data and sends the state information on to the state tax agencies for their processing.

"This partnership with the states gives taxpayers the same benefits for their state tax returns -- greater accuracy, faster refunds and an acknowledgment of filing -- that they enjoy for their federal returns," said Bob Barr, IRS Assistant Commissioner for Electronic Tax Administration. "Taxpayers are responding strongly and positively to the electronic tax options the IRS and the state tax agencies are offering."

Seven states -- including four federal/state participants -- have independent computer-filing programs, in which they receive the state tax data directly. More than 2 million taxpayers have filed their state returns through such programs this year.

Twenty-four states also offer telephone filing for state returns. Two of them -- Indiana and Kentucky -- are testing a federal/state TeleFile with the IRS. Nearly 1.8 million taxpayers have filed their state returns by phone this year.

Taking these various state options together, about 9.9 million taxpayers have e-filed their state returns so far this year, nearly two-thirds of the 15.6 million taxpayers in the same states who have e-filed their federal returns.

Nationwide, the IRS had received 20.2 million e-filed returns as of Mar. 5, up 14.3 percent from last year. The IRS has processed more than \$52.3 billion in refunds, compared to \$45.1 billion at this time last year. The average tax refund -- \$1677 -- is up 15.6 percent.

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**[ EDITORS' NOTE: States participating in e-filing programs are listed below]**

**FEDERAL/STATE FILING BY COMPUTER**

Alabama	Illinois	Missouri	Oklahoma
Arizona	Indiana	Montana	Oregon
Arkansas	Iowa	Nebraska	Pennsylvania
Colorado	Kansas	New Jersey	Rhode Island
Connecticut	Kentucky	New Mexico	South Carolina
Delaware	Louisiana	New York	Utah
Dist. Columbia	Maryland	North Carolina	Virginia
Georgia	Michigan	North Dakota	West Virginia
Idaho	Mississippi	Ohio	Wisconsin

**FEDERAL/STATE FILING BY PHONE**

Indiana	Kentucky
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**DIRECT STATE FILING BY COMPUTER**

California	Minnesota
Illinois	New Mexico
Maryland	New York
Massachusetts	

**DIRECT STATE FILING BY PHONE**

Arkansas	Illinois	Minnesota	Ohio
California	Iowa	Mississippi	Pennsylvania
Colorado	Kansas	Missouri	South Carolina
Connecticut	Louisiana	Montana	Utah
Idaho	Maine	Nebraska	Wisconsin
	Massachusetts	New Jersey	

## 1999 FILING SEASON STATISTICS

Cumulative through the week ending 3/6/98 and 3/5/99

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<b>Individual Income Tax Returns</b>			
Total Receipts	45,045,000	46,106,000	2.4
Total Processed	34,110,000	34,092,000	-0.1
<b>E-filing Receipts:</b>			
TOTAL	17,680,000	20,212,000	14.3
TeleFile (phone)	4,375,000	4,132,000	- 5.6
Computer	13,305,000	16,080,000	20.9
Tax Professionals	12,816,000	14,805,000	15.5
Self-prepared	489,000	1,275,000	160.8
<b>Refunds Certified by the Martinsburg Computing Center:</b>			
Number	31,051,000	31,211,000	0.5
Amount of principal	\$45.022 billion	\$52.331 billion	16.2
Average refund	\$1450	\$1677	15.6
<b>Direct Deposit Refunds:</b>			
Number	12,525,000	15,127,000	20.8
Amount	\$23.960 billion	\$32.332 billion	34.9